

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 TRSE-00 SSM-03
ACDA-12 HA-05 BIB-01 EB-08 AID-05 DOE-11 SOE-02
MCT-01 /141 W

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R 011508Z FEB 78
FM AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7949
INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY SANA
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
USINT BAGHDAD
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GERMANY

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CINCEUR FOR POLAD
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E. O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: XF, XI, AG
SUBJ: ALGIERS "STEADFASTNESS" SUMMIT: FONMINS' MEETING

1. SUMMARY: FIRST DAY OF "STEADFASTNESS" FONMINS' MEETINGS ENDED
EARLY FEBRUARY 1. RUMOR HAS IT THAT SUBJECT OF ARMING PLO FOR

STRIKES INTO ISRAEL CAME UP AND THAT SYRIANS OPPOSED SUCH A MOVE. ALGERIANS APPARENTLY IRRITATED AT IRAQ'S FAILURE TO PARTICIPATE AND, LIKE OTHERS, ARE WONDERING WHAT HEADS OF STATE, WHO ARE TO ARRIVE LATER FEBRUARY 1, WILL HAVE TO DISCUSS. END SUMMARY.

2. ALGERIAN, LIBYAN, SYRIAN, PDRY FONMINS, PLUS PLO'S ABU MAYZAR, ENDED FIRST DAY OF THEIR MEETINGS IN ALGIERS EL AURASSI HOTEL AT 1:30 A.M. FEBRUARY 1. DISCUSSIONS WERE TO PREPARE FOR FEBRUARY 2-3 STEADFASTNESS SUMMIT. JANUARY 31 DELIBERATIONS CONSISTED OF MEETINGS OF FONMINS AND OF A LOWER-LEVEL POLITICAL COMMITTEE WHICH WAS CHARGED WITH PREPARING AGENDA AND LIST OF PROPOSALS FOR CONSIDERATION BY CHIEFS OF STATE WHO ARE TO BEGIN ARRIVING IN ALGIERS LATER FEBRUARY 1. ACCORDING TO PRESS, BOTH THESE TASKS NOW FINISHED.

3. IN HIS OPENING SPEECH, ALGERIAN FONMIN BOUTEFLIKA CONDEMNED SAKAT'S INITIATIVE WHICH, HE SAID, HAD BROKEN ISOLATION AND BLOCKADE WHICH ARAB STRUGGLE HAD IMPOSED ON ISRAEL. BOUTEFLIKA ALSO TERMED DIFFICULTIES IN MAGHREB AS INDICATION OF WIDE RANGING DESIGNS OF IMPERIALISM AND ZIONISM. ABU MAYZAR, WHO IS ALSO SPOKESMAN FOR CONFERENCE, BLASTED U.S. AS RESPONSIBLE FOR PRESENT CRISIS IN ARAB WORLD.

4. WITH SECURITY UNUSUALLY TIGHT AT AURASSI (KHADDAM SAID TO BE CAUSE OF EXTRA PRECAUTIONS), LITTLE INFORMATION AS TO WHAT MINISTERS WERE TALKING ABOUT HAS FILTERED OUT. OUR VOA STRINGER HAS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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INFORMATION FROM ALGERIAN SOURCES THAT PLO PROPOSED TO GATHERING THAT IT BE GIVEN FUNDS AND ARMS IN ORDER TO PERMIT IT TO RESUME CROSS BORDER OPERATIONS FROM SOUTHERN LEBANON INTO ISRAEL. SYRIA SAID TO HAVE OPPOSED THIS SUGGESTION, AND POSITIONS OF OTHER PARTIES NOT KNOWN.

5. VOA STRINGER REINFORCES OUR OWN IMPRESSION THAT FAILURE OF IRAQUIS TO SHOW UP HAS TAKEN WIND OUT OF CONFERENCE'S SAILS AND HAS BEEN SOURCE OF CONSIDERABLE EMBARRASSMENT TO ALGERIANS. IRAQI DIPLOMAT QUOTED AS SAYING THAT REASON FOR IRAQI DECISION WAS THAT DATES OF CONFERENCE WERE ANNOUNCED PUBLICLY IN DAMASCUS AND THEN CORRECTED IN ALGIERS BEFORE BAGHDAD HAD BEEN CONSULTED IN DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS.

6. ALGERIANS CLEARLY STROVE MIGHTILY TO OBTAIN IRAQI PARTICIPATION. AFP HAS, WE UNDERSTAND, QUOTED HIGH ALGERIAN SOURCE AS SAYING THAT FORMULA HAD BEEN AGREED UPON UNDER WHICH AN IRAQI DELEGATION WOULD BE LODGED NEAR CONFERENCE SITE AND WOULD PARTICIPATE DIRECTLY THROUGH COURIERS. NOW THAT EVEN THIS DEVICE HAS APPARENTLY FAILED, ONLY CONSOLATION LEFT ALGERIANS IS THAT, IN THE EYES OF ONE KNOWLEDGEABLE ARAB, THEY HAVE SUCCEEDED THROUGH THEIR MEDIATION EFFORT IN LOWERING LEVEL OF SYRIAN-IRAQI TENSION SOMEWHAT. THIS NOT ENOUGH TO

BUILD A SUMMIT ON, AND ALGERIANS, LIKE OTHERS, ARE LIKELY WONDERING
WHAT TO DO NEXT.HAYNES

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